

GLOSSARY

Accrual Basis:	Method of accounting recognizing transactions when they occur without regard toward cash flow timing.
Adopted Budget:	Financial plan that forms the basis for appropriations.
Ad Valorem Tax:	A property tax computed as a percentage of the value of taxable property (see "Assessed Value").
Appropriation:	Authorization for spending a specific amount of money for a specific purpose during a fiscal year. It is based on the adopted budget, including supplemental budgets, if any. It is presented in a resolution or ordinance adopted by the governing body.
Approved Budget:	The budget that has been approved by the budget committee.
Assessed Value:	The value set on real and personal property as a basis for imposing taxes. It is the lesser of the property's maximum assessed value or real market value.
Budget:	The local government's comprehensive financial plan for one fiscal year. It must include a balanced statement of actual revenues and expenditures during each of the last two years, and estimated revenues and expenditures for the current and upcoming years.
Budget Message:	Written explanation of the budget and the local government's financial priorities. It is prepared and presented by the executive officer or chairperson of the governing body.
Budget Transfers:	Amounts moved from one fund to finance activities in another fund. They are shown as expenditures in the originating fund and revenues in the receiving fund.
Capital Outlay:	Assets acquired which generally have a useful life of one or more years, such as machinery, land, furniture, equipment, or buildings. Capital Outlay is one type of expenditure appropriation included in an agencies budget.
Cash Basis:	System of accounting under which revenues are accounted for only when received in cash, and expenditures are accounted for only when paid.
Category of Limitation:	The three categories in which taxes on property are placed before the constitutional limits can be tested – education, general government, excluded from limitation.
Constitutional Limits:	The maximum amount of tax on property that can be collected from an individual property in each category of limitation.
Contingency:	A type of expenditure appropriation shown as a line item within an operating fund(s). Expenditure is not allowed directly from this line item. An authorized transfer to another existing appropriation is necessary.

Debt Service Fund:	A fund established to account for payment of general long-term debt principal and interest.
Double Majority:	A term that refers to an election where at least 50 percent of the registered voters eligible to vote in the election cast a ballot and more than 50 percent voting approve the question.
Enterprise Fund:	A fund established to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises. They are usually self-supporting. Examples of enterprise funds are those for water, sewer, garbage, other utilities, airports, parking garages, transit systems, and ports.
Expenditures:	Total amount incurred if accounts are kept on an accrual basis; total amount paid if accounts are kept on a cash basis.
Fiscal Year:	A 12-month period to which the annual operating budget applies. At the end of the period, a government determines its financial position and the results of its operations. It is July 1 through June 30 for local governments.
Fund:	A fiscal and accounting entity with self-balancing accounts to record cash and other financial resources, related liabilities, balances, and changes; all segregated for specific, regulated activities and objectives.
Fund Type:	One of nine fund types: General, special revenue, debt service, capital projects, special assessment, enterprise, internal service, trust and agency, and reserve.
General Fund:	A fund used to account for most fiscal activities except for those activities required to be accounted for in another fund.
Interfund Loans:	Loans made by one fund to another and authorized by resolution or ordinance.
Levy:	Amount of ad valorem tax certified by a local government for the support of governmental activities.
Local Option Tax:	Taxing authority voter-approved by a double majority that is in addition to the taxes generated by the permanent tax rate. Local option taxes can be for general operations, a specific purpose, or capital projects. They are limited to five years, unless they are for a capital project, then they are limited to the useful life of the project or 10 years, whichever is less.
Materials and Services:	A type of expenditure appropriation used to budget and account for all supplies, maintenance, overhead, and operating needs within each fund.
Maximum Assessed Value (MAV):	The maximum taxable value limitation placed on real or personal property by the constitution. It can increase a maximum of 3 percent each year. The 3 percent limit may be exceeded if there are qualifying improvements made to the property, such as a major addition or new construction.

Net Working Capital:	The sum of the cash balance, accounts receivable expected to be realized during the ensuing year, inventories, supplies, prepaid expenses less current liabilities and, if encumbrance method of accounting is used, reserve for encumbrances.
Ordinance:	A formal legislative enactment by the governing board of a municipality.
Permanent Rate Limit:	The maximum rate of ad valorem property taxes that a local government can impose. Taxes generated from the permanent rate limit can be used for any purpose. No action of the local government can increase a permanent rate limit.
Personnel Services:	A type of expenditure appropriation included in an agencies budget to account for wage and benefit costs associated with employees.
Proposed Budget:	Financial and operating plan prepared by the budget officer. It is submitted to the public and the budget committee for review.
Real Market Value:	The amount in cash, which could reasonably be expected by an informed seller from an informed buyer in an arm's-length transaction as of the assessment date.
Reserve Fund:	Established to accumulate money from year to year for a specific purpose, such as purchase of new equipment.
Resolution:	A formal order of a governing body; lower legal status than an ordinance.
Resource:	Estimated beginning funds on hand plus anticipated current year revenue.
Special Revenue Fund:	A fund used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than special assessments, expendable trusts, or major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditure for specific purposes.
Supplemental Budget:	A financial plan prepared to meet unexpected needs or to spend revenues not anticipated when the regular budget was adopted. It cannot be used to authorize a tax.
Tax Rate:	The amount of tax stated in terms of a unit of tax for each \$1,000 of assessed value of taxable property.
Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance:	Amount set aside in the budget to be used as a cash carryover to the next year's budget. It provides the local government with cash until tax money is received from the county treasurer in November. This amount cannot be transferred by resolution or used through a supplemental budget, unless necessitated by a qualifying emergency.

